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ON PAGE A-1

NEW YORK TIMES
21 APRIL 1983

Brazil to Block Libyans Flying Arms to Latins

Reagan to Address Joint Session of Congress

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 20 — Brazil announced today that it had decided not to permit four Libyan planes, detained since Saturday, to proceed to Nicaragua with tons of arms and explosives.

The Reagan Administration said the munitions might have been destined for insurgents in El Salvador.

The White House, seeking support for the Salvadoran Government and striving to draw attention to accusations of Nicaraguan subversive activity in El Salvador, also said that President Reagan would defend his Central American policy before a joint session of Congress next Wednesday night.

This is to be Mr. Reagan's most comprehensive address on Central America. The Administration is trying to counter the lack of Congressional support for its Salvadoran aid program and the seeming parallel lack of concern about the activities of the Cuban- and Soviet-backed Nicaraguan Government.

Planes Landed Saturday

The Brazilian Government said four Libyan transport planes were given permission to land for refueling on Saturday after they said they were carrying medical supplies to Nicaragua. But a check of their cargoes showed that they carried munitions. This led to an official Brazilian protest to Libya, the Brazilian Government said.

Brazilian diplomats said today that the munitions would be taken off the planes, and the planes would be allowed to return to Libya with their crews. The arms and ammunition would be sent back to Libya by other means, the diplomats said.

Earlier, Brazilian spokesmen had indicated that the planes would be permitted to leave "for Libya" with their cargoes, but this left open the possibility that they would continue on to Nicaragua.

American intelligence had been tracking the four planes — three Soviet-built transports and one American-made C-130 — since they left Libya last week, American officials said. The United States Embassy in Brasilia was in close contact with the Brazilian authorities, officials here said, urging that the Libyans not be permitted to carry their cargoes to Nicaragua.

The three Soviet planes were detained in Manaus while the American-built plane was held in Recife.

The Congressional attitude President Reagan will seek to counter with his speech was reflected in a House Foreign Affairs Committee action Tuesday. It voted 19 to 16 to deny El Salvador \$50 million in additional military aid sought for this fiscal year by the Administration. El Salvador already receives \$26.5 million, and another request by the Administration to divert \$60 million in aid for other countries is still pending. But the Administration was upset by the vote against the separate \$50 million request.

Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said, "We take strong exception to this action." He said the Administration would press its case when the issue reached the full House.

He added, speaking of the Libyan planes,

"We think this is foolproof evidence that outside forces are continuing to supply arms to the region in an attempt to upset the reforms that have been so eagerly sought by the governments there," he said.

The State Department has regularly listed Cuba, the Soviet Union, the P.L.O. and Libya as having supplied military help and advisers to Nicaragua. The State Department said today, "This report of clandestine arms shipments is yet another indication of Libyan support for the Sandinist arms buildup and their destabilizing activities against their neighbors in Central America."

Shultz Sees House Panel

In a related matter, Secretary of State George P. Shultz met privately late this afternoon with members of the House Intelligence Committee, including its chairman, Representative Edward P. Boland, Democrat of Massachusetts, to assure them that the Administration was not breaking the law in its covert activity in Nicaragua. Mr. Boland said last week that he believed the law was being violated.

A resolution passed in Mr. Boland's name forbids American covert activity with the goal of overthrowing the Nicaraguan Government. Mr. Reagan, without confirming such activity, said last week that whatever the United States was doing in that region, it was intended to cut the clandestine arms flow from Nicaragua to Salvadoran insurgents.

Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, repeated today that in his opinion, the Administration was acting within the law.